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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

DEATHS OF GERMAN MEN OF SCIENCE¹

At our request, Professor C. Runge, of Göttingen, has been good enough to send us the following list of leading men of science in Germany who have died since the beginning of the late war. The list is not, however, complete, and may be supplemented later. Short obituary notices of some of the men will be found in the *Geschäftliche Mitteilungen der Göttinger Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, 1918-19-20 (Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, Berlin S.W. 68, Zimmerstr. 94):—W. Lexis, mathematician and statistician, August, 1914; W. Hittorf, physicist, November, 1914; A. von Auwers, astronomer, January, 1915; A. von Könen, geologist, May, 1915; E. Riecke, physicist, June, 1915; P. Ehrlich, physician, August, 1915; H. Solms-Laubach, botanist, November, 1915; R. Dedekind, mathematician, February, 1916; E. Mach, philosopher and physicist, February, 1916; K. Schwarzschild, astronomer, May, 1916; R. Helmholtz, mathematician and physicist, June, 1917; A. von Baeyer, chemist, August, 1917; G. Frobenius, mathematician, August, 1917; A. von Froriep, anatomist, October, 1917; H. Vöchting, botanist, November, 1917; C. Rabl, anatomist, December, 1917; G. Cantor, mathematician, January, 1918; L. Edinger, physician, January, 1918; E. Hering, physiologist, January, 1918; F. Merkel, anatomist, May, 1919; S. Schwendener, botanist, June, 1919; E. Fischer, chemist, July, 1919; H. Bruns, astronomer, 1919; Th. Reye, mathematician, July, 1919; W. Voigt, physicist, December, 1919; P. Stäckel, mathematician, December, 1919; W. Pfeffer, botanist, January, 1920; O. Bütschli, zoologist, February, 1920; and W. Förster, astronomer, 1920. J. Elster, physicist, and Joh. Thomae, mathematician, have died recently. In addition to the above, several other German men of science were referred to in the obituary notice of Professor von Waldeyer in *Nature* of May 19, and news has also reached us of the following deaths not previously recorded in these columns:—Professor G. A.

Schwalbe, Strassburg, on April 23, 1916, age seventy-one years; and Professor Karl von Bardeleben, editor of the *Anatomischer Anzeiger*, on December 19, 1918, age sixty-nine years.

PROGRESS IN THE WORK OF MAPPING THE UNITED STATES

THE United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, has published about 3,000 engraved topographic maps, which represent nearly 43 per cent. of the area of the United States. These maps are the results of surveys made during a period of 34 years, and the results are fairly good in quantity and quality for a Government bureau which can go only as fast as appropriations will permit.

A few geologic maps were published by the Survey prior to 1886, some of them in atlases accompanying reports on regions in the West, and a few were published separately as photolithographs; but the 1-degree sheets of northwest New Mexico and northeast Arizona, known as Wingate and Mount Taylor, N. Mex., and Fort Defiance, Tusayan, Marsh Pass, and Canyon de Chelly, Ariz., published in 1886, were the first topographic maps printed by the Geological Survey from engraved plates.

Eight States—Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio—have been completely mapped, and the work of mapping the State of New York is more than 90 per cent. completed. Several States are actively cooperating with the Survey in this work and in 1920 contributed to it a total of nearly \$200,000.

The Bulletin of the Survey containing this information continues:

With nearly 60 per cent. of the area of the country entirely unmapped and much that has been mapped in need of resurveys, and with the largest mapping organization in the country surveying only about 40 per cent. of the area in 40 years, the logical demand is for more speed. If these maps are to serve their full purpose in promoting national development the whole country must be mapped within this generation, or, even

¹ From *Nature*.